Collaborate on Ideas to Boost American Small Businesses

Washington, D.C - Today, the New Democrat Coalition hosted a meeting with Small Business Administrator Karen Mills

to discuss ways to foster a stronger business climate that helps small businesses grow, innovate and hire. The discussion focused on the ideas included in the New Democrats' Agenda for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

and was part of an ongoing dialogue between the New Dems and the Administration on the need to spur access to capital for small businesses, boost opportunities for American businesses abroad and support American innovators and entrepreneurs.

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(L-R: Rep. Crowley, Administrator Mills, Rep. Kind)

Click here to view additional pictures from the meeting.

"The New Democrat Coalition is home to numerous former small business leaders and entrepreneurs. We are committed to using that firsthand knowledge to develop new ideas and policies that can boost American small businesses," said **Congressman Joseph Crowley** (NY-7)

, Chair of the New Democrat

Coalition. "We are in agreement that small businesses are our nation's number one job creator. Today's dialogue focused on ways we can lay a foundation that encourages small businesses to grow and helps them succeed. Administrator Mills has been a strong advocate for American small businesses and we look forward to partnering with her to boost American small businesses and rebuild our economy." \square

"Under Karen Mills' leadership, the Small Business Administration has been transformed to make doing business easier as it serves to enable small businesses, the cornerstone of our community economies, to access capital," said **Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-8)**, New Dem Vice Chair.

"Small businesses serve as important anchors in our towns and villages and are vital to our economic recovery," said **Congressman Ron Kind (WI-3)**, New Dem Vice Chair. "We must continue working to provide our small businesses every possible resource to weather this economic climate and drive dollars back into our local economies. I look forward to working with Administrator Mills and the SBA to continue to foster a growth environment for America's small businesses and support our entrepreneurs and innovators for a competitive 21st Century workforce."

"We all know that small businesses are the largest job creators in the country. The New Democrats are focused on providing entrepreneurs and innovators with the resources and tools they need to continue to expand and hire. Growing America's small businesses is key to our economic recovery and will help maintain U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace," said Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz (PA-13)

, New Dem Vice Chair.

"Small businesses are the anchor of our communities and the foundation of our nation's economy," said **Congressman Adam Smith (WA-9)**, New Dem Vice Chair. "It is vitally important to continue to find new ways to support small businesses to ensure that they are able to thrive in an increasingly competitive, global economy. I was pleased to hear from Karen Mills today how the administration continues to prioritize support for small businesses."

"We know that small businesses have created nearly 65 percent of new jobs over the past 15 years. We must continue to give them the tools they need to grow and create good jobs going forward," said **SBA Administrator Karen Mills**. "The Small Business Jobs Plan consists of targeted tools that address the most critical small business problems. These programs are guided by basic principles: build on what works, maximize taxpayer dollars, and make targeted changes as quickly as possible. The New Democrats are a critical partner for small businesses - they understand the importance of providing small businesses with programs that close the credit gap and help create jobs."

The New Democrat Coalition is a Coalition of 69 members of the U.S. House of

Representatives who are dedicated to the prosperity and security of American families and business. Founded in 1997, the NDC provides Members of Congress with the opportunity to advance a common sense policy agenda focused on empowering the U.S. to grow economically and maintain a vibrant job market, preserving the U.S. standing as the world's leader in innovation and technological advancement, and strengthening our economic and national security. For more information, visit the New Dems website at http://ndc.crowley.house.gov.

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